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THE PEOPLE'S BANK

U.S. Seeks Solution By Placing Refugees

WASHINGTON, Sunday (UP). — The U.S. is at present revising its strategy to ease tension between Israel and the Arab states, and policy studies indicate there may be a new peace move soon based primarily on settling the plight of 900,000 Arab refugees, loans to Israel and other measures to attack the problem of refugee compensation and resettlement.

Two years ago this month, Secretary of State Dulles, with President Eisenhower's backing, proposed a different approach. In a major foreign policy speech in New York, he outlined a sweeping "package" proposal covering Middle Eastern boundary settlements, water development and irrigation projects, loans to Israel and other measures to attack the problem of refugee compensation and resettlement.

Middle East reaction was very cool. Mr. Dulles concentrated on the problem of this week again before leaving for a brief vacation. It can be said that the Eisenhower administration now feels the "package" approach will have to be shelved in favor of a new start centering on the refugee problem.

The U.S. instead of jumping into the front, is pursuing a behind-the-scenes role. Secret, informal talks on possible Middle East moves are under way with Canada, Norway, Yugoslavia and other countries. The center of activity has been at the U.N. in New York.

Preliminary diplomatic spadework with nations which have interests and troops in the Middle East may be completed by the end of September when the General Assembly holds its regular session in New York. By that time, diplomats hope to have definite proposals which would have wide international support. Direct talks would then begin with Israel and some of the Arab states on the refugee question.

There is strong feeling here that India or Italy might play the role of mediator, instead of the U.S. Both countries recognize Israel, and at the same time have generally good relations with the Arabs. The U.S. would expect to contribute heavily to any agreement to compensate and resettle the Arab refugees.

Russia Building Up Mid-East 'Allies'

NEW YORK, Sunday (INA). — The New York Times, in a report from Cairo, said yesterday that the Soviet drive to build up the armies of Egypt, Syria and the Yemen was viewed by diplomats as a concerted effort to establish a powerful friendly force at the "back door" of the West's Middle East defenses.

The report said that diplomats believed these efforts were aimed at putting Russia in the position of a major Mediterranean power. Moreover, since Egypt could also use her submarines in the Red Sea, it was believed that the Kremlin is seeking at the same time to gain a strong foothold in the Red Sea area.

A team of Soviet jet pilots is already shuttling between Egypt and Syria, training airmen in those countries in night flying and other matters. "The New York Times" report said, quoting local sources. It added that according to Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo the Syrians have contracted for at least six motor torpedo boats to add to the small fleet they already have at Latakia, which is being developed as an important modern naval base. About 10 officers and men of the Syrian navy are being sent to the Polish sea base at Gdynia to learn to handle submarines and other craft, these sources said.

INFILTRATORS STEAL 150 HEAD OF SHEEP

BEERSHEBA, Sunday. — Infiltrators from Jordan last night stole about 150 sheep valued at £115,000 from the Abu Rahleh tribe in the eastern Negev.

The marauders penetrated approximately 10 kms. into Israel territory.

HOUSEWIFE AS CAMOUFLAGE EXPERT

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Syria Sure Of Soviet Support, Army Chief Says

General Tawfik Nizam, Syrian Chief of Staff, who accompanied the Syrian delegation to the Moscow talks, and who returned to Damascus yesterday morning, briefed President Shukri Kuwari on the results of the mission to Moscow and Prague, according to Cairo Radio. Nizam, e-Din declared later that the talks in both capitals were "successful".

Nizam, e-Din said: "We came back fully convinced that should an aggression be attempted against us, we have friends who are willing to defend us for the sake of peace and freedom in the world."

The Chief of Staff said that the tension which was besetting the whole world reached the Middle East with the establishment of Israel. He praised the Soviet stand on Arab questions and said it supported Arab unity and Arab nationalist aspirations. It was therefore natural, he added, that "we go to Moscow to convey our gratitude to a sincere wish on the part of the Soviet authorities to assist us and to provide us with unconditional economic assistance."

There was no attempt to interfere in Syria's internal affairs, he added, "and we are convinced that the Soviet Union has no desire at expansion."

A Syrian Cabinet meeting yesterday discussed foreign and Arab affairs as well as internal questions, according to Damascus yesterday. The Soviet Union has undertaken to buy 200,000 tons of Syrian wheat, the Damascus daily "El-Rai" el-Am reported yesterday according to Cairo Radio. The payment will be half in hard currency and the other half in tools and machines that Syria purchases, the report added.

U.S. Denies Yemen Disclosed Arms Deal

WASHINGTON, Sunday (UP). — A State Department spokesman denied yesterday that Yemen has informed the U.S. it is acquiring Soviet arms.

The U.S. was informed by British officials six weeks ago that half a dozen shiploads of Soviet arms had arrived in Yemen. The spokesman said no such information has come from Yemeni officials "to any responsible official of this Department."

Two Killed In Silo Blaze

REHOVOT, Sunday. — Two young men were burned to death on a fodder silo which caught fire in Bnei Darom kibbutz today. Zundel Stolar, 20, and Uri Ilan, 21, were throwing fodder from the top of the 12-metre silo to a wagon on the ground, when the wagon suddenly caught fire. The flames soared up the metre square funnel which adjoins the silo, and there was no escape for the men under the iron roof of the building.

One of the young men leapt down on the wagon and was killed in the fall. His comrade remained standing and was suffocated by the fumes and heat.

The Rehovot fire brigade arrived an hour-and-a-half after the fire started, and the police came even later. After the fire brigade demolished the roof of the fire subsided and a police sergeant, accompanied by a Magen David Adom doctor, climbed to the top of the tower and brought the burned body down.

Uri Ilan, of Bnei Darom, will be buried in the kibbutz cemetery tomorrow. The burial arrangements of Zundel Stolar of Mexico have not as yet been decided.

It is understood that Ilan, who was a paratrooper, instinctively jumped when the flames threatened him, while his comrade met his death trying to find another way down.

Police investigators have so far been unable to determine the cause of the blaze.

B-G and Goldmann See Israel, Jewry Mutually Dependent

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN, Jerusalem Post Reporter
The State of Israel and world Jewry are interdependent, it was agreed yesterday by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, President of the World Zionist Organization.

They were addressing the Ideological Conference organized by the Jewish Agency on the second general topic of the agenda — the Mission of the State of Israel and its Tasks with Regard to World Jewry.

Many of the audience which packed the auditorium of the Lauterman Humanities Building on the new Hebrew University Campus undoubtedly expected to witness a verbal duel between the two leaders, following their clash at the Zionist General Council less than a month ago. But the "debate" was rather subdued and there were many points of agreement between them.

Speaking briefly on the subject of Israel's security, Mr. Ben-Gurion said that the solution of this problem did not lie in the organization of a first-class army. The survival and the peace of the State was created by the immigrants or by the Zionist Organization. Last month, he told the Z.G.C. that the State was built "by the immigrants and only by the immigrants. The Jews abroad helped the builders but they themselves did not build."

Speaking for almost 90 minutes from a prepared text to an audience that included the President and Cabinet Ministers, members of the Jewish Agency Executive, the Chief of Staff, and the Mayor in addition to the regular participants in the conference from Israel and abroad (Mr. L. Eshkol was chairman of the session), Mr. Ben-Gurion surveyed Jewish history and the phenomenon of Jewish survival, devoting relatively little attention to Israel-Dispora relations.

Citing the views of Prof. (Continued on Page 3, Col. 2)

Goldmann Asks Drive For Russian Jewry

LYDDA AIRPORT, Sunday. World Jewry should initiate a vigorous campaign on behalf of Soviet Jewry, Dr. Nahum Goldmann declared this morning on arriving from Zurich for a week's visit.

Dr. Goldmann reported that the first meeting of a committee of seven international Jewish bodies would meet in Israel at the end of October to discuss problems of Soviet Jewry and their eventual migration to Israel.



King of Malaysia, His Highness the Yang di Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan, pictured above with his consort, Raja Permaisuri Agong. Both are in full regalia. The new king will reign over the independent Malayan Federation for a period of five years.

MALAYA MAY JOIN SEATO OR BANDUNG

KUALA LUMPUR, Sunday (Reuter). — Tunku (Prince) Abdul Rahman, Malaya's Chief Minister, said today that details of a defence agreement with Britain would be "thrashed out" after Malaya gains her independence on August 31.

He told Malay Journalists Association luncheon that the agreement would allow Commonwealth forces to remain in Malaya.

"We are not prepared to give our word whether we are prepared to join the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization or the Afro-Asian bloc," he said, adding that Malaya would seek admission to the U.N.

The Tunku called for unity among Malaya's three races — Malays, Chinese and Indians — and for an end to internal militant Communism and the "reign of terror" which it had imposed on the country.

Earlier, usually reliable Government sources said they expected that a treaty of defence and mutual assistance with Britain would be ratified at the last pre-independence meeting of the Malayan Legislative Council on August 14 and 15.

Soustelle: Israel Keeping Syrians Out of Algeria

By DANIEL SHOLOT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — "Were it not for Israel's existence, Syrian 'volunteers' armed with Soviet weapons, would already have marched into Algeria," M. Jacques Soustelle, a former Governor of Algeria and leader of the visiting French Parliamentary delegation, told a meeting at the Z.O.A. House here tonight.

M. Soustelle was speaking on "Mediterranean Problems and French Policy" at a gathering held in honour of the French delegation by the Israel-France Friendship League.

He expressed the view that Soviet strategy aimed at cutting off Europe by a pincer movement penetrating the countries on the North African coast of the Mediterranean. "We have the choice of defending our ground or retreating, and everyone knows that a policy of retreat before threats brings ruin in its wake," he said.

"The greatest chance for the peace of the area and of the world is to ensure that there will be no Oriental Munich." France's determination to defend the soil of Algeria matched Israel's own determination to defend her country, whatever the cost.

"Goals to Newcastle" At the beginning of his address, in French, M. Soustelle had stated that to talk of the Mediterranean as an Israel audience was, he feared, "like taking coals to Newcastle." But it was a "fact" that the greatest civilizations had flourished under the blue Mediterranean sky and along its blue coasts and all Western civilization had gathered its wisdom from the East.

After tracing the various civilizations which had flourished in the Mediterranean area, the speaker stated that one of the principal reasons why the Arab world had moved to the north in recent centuries was because of soil erosion, and the fact that fuel in the form of coal, was to be found in those countries.

Turning to present problems, M. Soustelle stated that to secure an axis from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic was the ambition of Pan-Arabism, whilst France depended for her very livelihood on an axis from Paris to Brazzaville. The axes crossed in Algeria, where the two forces were in open conflict. "If France were to withdraw from Algeria, retrograde brutality would rule supreme there," he said, and vigorous applause from the large audience.

Algeria was similar in appearance to Israel, M. Soustelle stated, and he remarked that the transformation which had been effected by Israel's pioneers in the Hula valley reminded him of what had been achieved in Algeria, where similar marshland had been drained by the sweat and blood of French settlers.

Ata Strike Seen Nearer Solution

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV, Sunday. — The 12-week-old Ata strike drew nearer its end with today's negotiations between the textile plant's management and Messrs. P. Lavyon, A. Becker and Y. Meshel, the Histadrut Executive. The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Pinhas Sapir, attended both today's sessions, in the interval between which, each side held private consultations.

Messrs. H. Moller, Y. Gori and E. Kirschner represented the Ata management and Messrs. P. Lavyon, A. Becker and Y. Meshel, the Histadrut Executive.

It is understood that the Histadrut offered a package plan of a satisfactory efficiency plan, linked with the setting up of a pension fund for employees and a productivity council.

Mr. Sapir is understood to have repeated his assurance that, in exchange for Ata's acceptance of at least part of the workers' financial claims, he would submit its request for a rise in the prices of its products.

The Bathing Season is In Full Swing
Thousands of people everywhere are streaming to bathing beaches and swimming pools to seek a healthy tan and relief from the heat. If you are one of them, you should not forget to take along Velveta Cream or the new Velveta Oil, containing special ingredients to protect you from sunburn and peeling.

Oman Rebel HQ Seized After Pounding by RAF

By DANIEL SHOLOT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEHRAN, Sunday. — The Persian bandit chief, Dad Shah, attacked a village south of Nihkhaba in Baluchistan last week and his gang killed 12, wounded six and kidnapped eight women and children, police said in Teheran today.

Dad Shah's gang was held responsible for the murder last March of three Americans, including a woman, and two Persians who were travelling by jeep in a mountainous area near the Pakistan border.

Menon Warns On Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Kashmir, Sunday (Reuter). — Defence Minister Krishna Menon warned Pakistan today that "India will not permit any further acts of aggression against India's territory, including Kashmir."

Any such acts would be resisted, he told correspondents after visiting the ceasefire line.

Mr. Menon accused Pakistan of trying to create an atmosphere of crisis in Kashmir and thereby to "perpetuate her aggression."

Irish Underground Stirring Again

BELFAST, Sunday (UP). — Police today ripped down hundreds of posters threatening a new outbreak of violence by the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

This morning police fought off a pre-dawn machinegun attack from behind sandbags at the Swatragh police station. It was the first major exchange of fire since both Northern Ireland and the Republic enforced strong measures against the illegal underground group.

Insurgent Leader Flees

BAHREIN, Sunday. — The main fortress in the rebel capital of Niwra suddenly surrendered today to a swift-moving loyalist force using Afrika Korps tactics against the Oman rebels.

British-led troops, supported by jet fighters and piston-engined bombers, captured the outpost defence at Firg and punched through to Niwra oasis in a morning-long attack.

When the spearhead of the motley Arab and British force reached Niwra, rebels holding the big mud fort in its centre struck the Imam's white flag of rebellion and hauled up the red banner of the Sultan.

Latest reports from tribesmen said that the Imam was not in Niwra.

By sundown the southern half of Niwra was firmly in the Sultan's hands and patrols were probing the date-palm groves of the northern half. But rebels were still holding out in caves around Firg, and the northern part of Niwra remained to be cleaned up.

Dawn Advance

The Sultan's forces, with British support from the 15th and 19th Hussars and the Cameronians, moved at dawn today, entered Firg, and quickly pressed on towards the Imam's headquarters at Niwra, about 10 kms. away.

Shrouded in dust, the column drove out from Kershe at first light, prepared for the full-scale assault supported by Shackleton bombers and Venom jet fighters.

The Imam's brother Talib, who commanded the Firg past into the mountain capital, was given a final half-hour warning by leaflets which said: "The armies of the Sultan's supporters are advancing upon you. Put up the red flag and come out!" Talib is reported to have fled into the surrounding mountains together with many of his followers.

Native troops under British officers and supported by British infantry, jeeps and armoured cars used the North African desert air-and-ground coordination tactics pioneered

by Rommel in World War Two. Jets and bombers softened up suspected trouble spots — caves, oasis groves, and forts. Ground forces rushed up. If the enemy still resisted, R.A.F. ground controllers on the spot ordered in more attacks.

What should have been the tactical climax of the desert war was announced in an offhand manner by an R.A.F. spokesman here who said that a pilot had reported the change of flags on the Niwra battlements.

Sultan Said Bin Taimur radioed the British Persian Gulf commander from Muscat today expressing "deep appreciation for the scale and speed of support provided by British armed forces."

Meanwhile, there was no news from the other end of the "front," where rebels are holding a roadblock east of Iki. Until it can be broken, the Sultan's Muscat Regiment is unable to advance into the rebel area.

(U.P. Reuter)

Cairo Paper Raps League Over Oman

CAIRO, Sunday (Reuter). — The semi-official Egyptian newspaper "Al Shaab" criticized the Arab League Political Committee for not deciding immediately to submit the Oman question to the U.N. Security Council.

The Political Committee met in Cairo on Thursday and yesterday to consider the Oman situation. A spokesman said after yesterday's session that seven states had agreed to raise the issue, but that a decision by Iraq and Libya were still awaited.

Abdul Khalek Hassouna, Secretary-General of the Arab League, yesterday distributed notes to the Handing countries asking them to help Oman "in its struggle against imperialism."

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PRICE (°) £329.- Including all taxes.

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Monday, August 12, 1957

15 Av, 5717 - 15 Meshvrim, 1377

The religious parties in Tel Aviv have gained a temporary victory by backing up their political log-rolling Sabbath within the Muni-

TRANSPORT coalition with disorderly street demonstrations.

They have succeeded in stopping the Dan bus cooperative from operating Tel Aviv's public transport system on Saturday evenings in the hour or so before the first stars appear.

This, however, is likely to prove a deadly boomerang. One is reminded of the statement of a famous politician who, on an occasion of premature rejoicing, said "Today they are ringing their bells; tomorrow they will be wringing their hands."

Greater Tel Aviv today is a very wide-spread area containing nearly one-third of the population of Israel. It is an area which contains a great deal of industry and commerce, where the inhabitants work very hard six days of the week, with little leisure or opportunity to travel to meet friends or family or seek recreation at the beaches, except on the Sabbath day. At present there is a fairly well-organized network of shul taxis which cater for this desire, as well as need. Now that the Dan bus cooperative has been compelled to accede to the pressure of the Municipality - which is ruled by a rightist-religious coalition - there is no doubt that it, in its turn, will press for restrictions on shul services. The result is not too difficult to foresee. The public will not knuckle under to religious coercion by a minority which resolutely refuses to bring its ancient and antiquated laws up to date to fit a modern society.

Every new contraction of the normal rights of the public enforced by political blackmail will undoubtedly boomerang. It will not be long before the population of Greater Tel Aviv realizes that it will have to do away with the sort of coalition which is composed in such a way as to give reactionary and unprogressive religious forces the balance of power that they use to flinch away its freedoms and its enjoyment of simple and reasonable amenities.

The present unpleasantness over Sabbath bus services in Tel Aviv is only one manifestation of the whole question of the antiquated Sabbath laws which are enforced upon Israel and hold back its development. It is ridiculous that in a modern state it should be impossible to have a telegram delivered on the Sabbath, that the smooth working of ports and airports should be disrupted, that the nation should be suddenly thrust back into medievalism for one day out of seven. And even more reprehensible than the facts of the situation are the methods by which it is perpetuated. There is a stubborn refusal on the part of the religious authorities to face up to the realities of modern life. Most know that the storm will be bound to break one day but are content to shelter behind the hope that it will not be in their time.

Progress cannot, however, be halted in this way. If and when Tel Aviv gets a more up-to-date transportation system - either underground or on the surface - it will not be able to close it down one day a week, the way it used to shut the gate to Herzl Street forty years ago when the few dozen founding fathers could easily ban the Jaffa gharri-drivers from their small quarter and themselves walk wherever they had to go. One can no more serve the needs of the people today with horse-drawn vehicles than one can enforce for long this ban on public transport on the Sabbath.

Report from Algeria (II)

The Case Against Capitulation

By Maurice Carr

IF the French wanted to be cruel, really cruel to Algeria as well as to themselves and to the world at large, they would not desert to the F.L.N. demand for independence and to the universal anti-colonialist clamour, leaving Algeria to stew in its own juice. Some Frenchmen favour such a capitulation, and their attitude has been stated by Professor Raymond Aron, the brilliant editor of the French conservative weekly, L'Express. In his much-quoted book "La Tragedie Algerienne" (Plon, Paris), he writes, as a result of his simplicity as it is ugly in its amorality may be paraphrased thus:

"France in Algeria has been playing the difficult part of a foster-parent to a backward child. This child, although hopelessly incapable as yet of taking care of itself, is kicking and screaming for immediate independence. The uncomprehending neighbours, and friends and foes, are pointing out to the child its head and let it do itself an injury. Then the neighbours can go to its head."

France will be better off if she invests in her own metropolitan territory the 200,000 to 300,000 francs which she annually sinks in Africa - for the most part in Algeria - without counting the equal amount that she now spends on the military operations there.

Why, he asks, "should the French take it upon themselves to cover indefinitely the deficits of the Tunisian, Algerian and Moroccan budgets? If they are logical, the French will prefer to leave this task to the Americans."

Point Four programme of economic aid to underdeveloped countries cost them altogether since 1947 only one-fourth of what France has lavished on North Africa in the same period.

Washington should wish to assume the staggering North African burden - eased eventually by profits from the Sahara oil that would by no means save Algeria from the economic paralysis which would necessarily smite the country when the European settlers are evacuated to France, as Professor Aron advocates they should be.

Partition Perils

THE situation for the Moslem Algerians would not be any better, but rather worse, if the European Algerians, refusing to be thrown out of the land where they were born and where up to five generations of their forefathers lie buried, decided to partition the country, setting up an independent State of their own in a coastal enclave stretching from Algiers in the east to Oran in the west (this is commonly referred to here as the "Israel solution").

Nor would matters be improved if an independent Algeria were linked with Morocco and Tunisia in a Maghreb Confederation. Morocco and Tunisia are not so tightly overpopulated as Algeria, but all three countries are poor, their economies are parallel, not complementary.

when everybody who came by always corrected it to Brigitte, to which it isn't? The man we are sorry for now is Donald MacGillivray, British High Commissioner in Malaya, who has just helped to install Sir Abdul Rahman Ibi Almarhum Tunjika Mahamad, ruler of Negri Sembilan, as Yang di Pertuan Besar, or King of Kings in Malaya. It won't be made any easier by the fact that the Chief Minister is called Tengku Abdul Rahman, and the King of Kings, who studied law in London under Sir Hartley Shawcross, will be known as Tunku Abdul Rahman, or Sir Donald, who is Scots and 50, has long practice in handling over British administrations. He was at one time Private Secretary to Sir Harold MacMichael, and went on from there, in due course, to be Union officer to UNSCOP. He saw out the British Mandate here in 1947, and then he went to Jamaica or Guyana, where, how many names can a man remember?

MR. Carl Toll, of Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada, has written to us with two requests. Firstly, he would like somebody to write to him in either English or German, and he would send magazines and other reading material in return, if they liked. Secondly, and more important, he writes, he would like some land and water snails.

IT has been noisily cheerful in Moscow for the Youth Festival, we learn. Leading members of the Soviet hierarchy frolicked in the Kremlin

People who work on newspapers are full of sympathy with others who have troubles over names. Like the new U.S. Ambassador to Copenhagen, Mr. Gluck, who couldn't off-hand recall the name of Premier Bandaranaike, and can't easily pronounce the first name of Jawaharlal Nehru. Who can? And how much time, trouble and argument did it take until we managed to get the name of the Danish ship in safety on Birgitte Toft.

allegiance to the rival nationalist faction M.N.A. (Algerian Nationalist Movement).

An independent Algeria, cut adrift from France, would be an ungovernable vessel for many years to come, so that the F.L.N. masters of Algeria would, ever against their own will, be driven to desperate shifts. The fanaticism already consuming the Near and Middle East would go wider, deeper. In the Arab world, new vast fields for strife and intrigue between Eastern and Western blocs would be opened up. The worst might not happen, but this strategically vital area could so easily spark off the Third World War that would end all wars - and all civilizations, too.

World Must Help

Since a divorce between France and Algeria has so little to commend it, what is the alternative? Is it possible to reconcile the legitimate aspirations and interests of both the Moslems and the French in Algeria? From what I have seen here a just and liberal settlement is feasible; but it will call for unflinching effort by all the parties directly concerned, and it will need real understanding and encouragement from the interested onlookers in the world's capitals.

This is the second of a series of articles. The first appeared on Friday.

The Red Piper

By arrangement with "Ma Ariv"

At the Cinemas

UN condamné a mort s'est échappé" (Zafon, Tel Aviv) is the story of an escape from prison during the Nazi occupation of France. It is a bare, rather slow recounting of facts and yet so remarkable is the spirit and atmosphere of Robert Bresson's film that every detail seems to take on significance and meaning. It is a harrowing experience while its images and implications remain in the mind. The army officer who manages to make his escape, and the wild that circumstances force him to take with him, seem to portend more than their actual selves; it is as if they speak for all who are in chains but are determined to be free.

THE End of the Book" (Armon David, Tel Aviv),

the film of Graham Greene's "The End of the Book", directed by Edward Dmytryk, describes a supposedly blinding love affair between an American writer, living in London towards the end of the war, and the wife of a civil servant. The book had genuine passion and a sense of revelation and of sin. Sarah, the woman in the case, having been baptised into the Catholic Church and turning back to it when, as if in answer to her prayer, her lover "comes back from the dead" after an air raid. The film, however, is just a routine triangle affair, adequately played by Deborah Kerr, Van Johnson (as the lover) and Peter Cushing (the husband). John Mills gives a very good performance in a small part.

KEEPING POSTED

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Jewish Battalions Paved Way to Statehood

40 Years Since Units Were Formed

By LEON CHEIFETZ

WHILE August 23 marks the 40th anniversary of the official establishment of the Jewish Legion, veterans of the Legion are marking the occasion at a special ceremony at Sarafand tomorrow.

The Legion was a military formation of the British Army organized during World War I to help in the liberation of Palestine. Volunteers for these Jewish units - there were three battalions - came from all four continents and from the fifth - Australia - came Colonel E.L. Margolin, who had received the command of one of the battalions.

The volunteers were from the British Isles, the U.S., Canada, Argentina, the liberated parts of Palestine and even the compounds of Turkish prisoners of war. Officially the units were known as the 38th, 39th and 40th Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers. Full recognition of their Jewish composition and character came at the end of the war, when the battalions which contained the remnants of the Jewish Legion were officially designated the First Jewish Regiment.

The idea of a Jewish Legion was originally conceived in Alexandria at the beginning of 1915, after Turkey had entered the war on the side of Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire and ruthlessly deported thousands of Jews from their homes in cities and villages in Palestine. Among the hundreds of able-bodied men who were landed in Alexandria was the late Vladimir Jabotinsky. There he was joined by the late Vladimir Jabotinsky, a noted journalist, orator and rising star in the Zionist firmament. Both were enthralled by the idea and found many willing followers in the Gabbari detention camp. On a piece of paper torn out of an exercise book, they drew up a resolution to "form a Jewish Legion and to propose to England to make use of it in Palestine." This resolution, sent to the British military authorities, carried about 300 signatures.

Mule Corps

After protracted negotiations, the offer of Jewish aid was accepted, but in a somewhat dejected form. Instead of a fighting unit, the Jewish Legion was born; instead of being held in reserve for the campaign on the Palestine front, it was sent to the Dardanelles to participate - with great distinction - in the front-line of the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.

Trumpetor accepted the offer to lead the mule corps, but Jabotinsky found the choice profoundly disappointing. He left Egypt for Europe to continue to press for a full-fledged Jewish army. There he found strong adherents in Pinhas Rutenberg, Meir Grossman, Dr. Chaim Weizmann and influential supporters in the non-Jewish community. He took two years of gruelling struggle, disappointments and heartbreak to overcome all opposition. The Jewish Unit became an acknowledged fact with the official proclamation by the British War Office of the formation of the Jewish Battalions on August 23, 1917.

The nucleus of the first Jewish Battalion was supplied by a group of veterans from the disbanded Zion Mule Corps. Jabotinsky himself joined as a private, was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant and before his departure for overseas was gazetted lieutenant. The ranks were increased by volunteers (some of whom had transferred from other English regiments) and conscripted aliens who were given the choice of joining the Legion. After four months of intensive training the first battalion was ready for the great adventure on the Palestine Front.

Bayonets in Whitechapel

On February 2, 1918 - as is told by Vladimir Jabotinsky in his book "The Story of the Jewish Legion" - the Jewish Battalion, the 38th Bn. Royal Fusiliers, under the command of Colonel J.H. Patterson, marched through the city of London and Whitechapel, with shining bayonets. The soldiers had been brought from Portsmouth to London two days earlier. In Whitechapel, which was at first antagonistic to the whole Legion idea, there were tens of thousands of Jews on the streets, at the windows and on the roofs. Blue-white flags were over every shop door, women crying with joy, old Jews with fluttering beards muttering "Sheheyanu." The warm and enthusiastic welcome was a well-deserved compensation for the ill-feeling, hatred and ridicule of the preceding months.

The successful outcome of the efforts of Jabotinsky and his supporters in England led to favourable repercussions in the U.S., where Pinhas Rutenberg, Izhak Ben-Zvi, David Ben-Gurion and others carried on an intensive campaign for the acceptance of volunteers. The British-American Recruiting Mission began accepting recruits for the special Jewish formation, and volunteers came from all parts of the North American continent. These volunteers constituted the largest contingent in the Jewish Battalions. Later on over 1,000 Palestinian Jews flocked to the colours to join the 40th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. A contingent of about 200 volunteers from Argentina also arrived in England before the cessation of hostilities.

The Jewish Legion played its role in the breakup of the Turkish front in Trans-Jordan, it supplied services for the British Middle East army from Port Said in Egypt to Alexandria in Asia Minor, and served as a pacifying force during the early months of the armistice. It was also intended to form part of the peace-time garrison of Palestine but later developments brought it to an end to this hope.

The full story of the Legion has yet to be written. The men who have served in this formation refer to "those days" with feelings of nostalgia, and many who have read Jabotinsky's book can't help but be imbued with glowing pride when, in the closing paragraph of the book, he quotes part of his prophetic farewell remarks to a group of demobilized Legionnaires:

"For a while, in your homes, you will one day read glorious news of a free Jewish life in



Seen at top is a platoon of the Zion Mule Corps before setting out for Gallipoli in 1915. Below are members of the Fusiliers at a guard mounting at El Arish in 1917.

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A free Jewish country - of factories and universities, of farms and theatres, perhaps of K.P.'s and ministers. Then you will lose yourself in thought, and the paper will slip from your fingers; and there will come to your mind a picture of the Jordan Valley, of the desert by Rafiah, of the hills of Ephraim by Abiebin. Then you will stand up, walk to the mirror and look yourself proudly in the face. Jump to attention and salute yourself - yourself - for 'tis you who have made it.

AVIHAL MEMORIAL

Members of the Jewish Legion in various parts of the world will be joining in the 40th anniversary celebrations. In Avshal, an agricultural settlement of ex-Legionnaires, the celebration will be utilized to break the ground for the construction of the first buildings for the Beit Hagadim, which will serve as a living memorial to the Jewish Legion and to the men who served in its various formations.

The Beit Hagadim will include a museum, library, remembrance corner and community hall. In the next stage it is planned to build on the same site - the land was given by the Jewish National Fund - a hostel for ex-Legionnaires and ex-servicemen, an amphitheatre, a sports field and accommodation for a military academy. Support for this project has been promised by ex-Legionnaires and friends in this country as well as in the U.S.

dealing with foreign companies could better have been fought by the united action of Zionist and other Jewish organizations seven or eight years ago. Had it not been for Mr. Ben-Gurion's "messianic philosophy" and his insistence on considering Israel a force apart from world

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Commenting on the incident behind the Army communiqué that mentioned the death of two Arabs - a boy and a girl - and the wounding of four in a closed manoeuvre area, Al Hamishmar (Mapam) notes that according to the

Beduin of the permanent encampment of Karmel-Saud the children were killed inside the encampment as part of a concerted drive to force the residents to abandon it. Even if this should prove untrue, it is in place to ask why the Army does not take adequate measures to protect citizens - all citizens - during manoeuvres. In any case it is not up to the men who were in charge of the operation to set themselves up as judges of their own deeds, and the paper calls for a public investigation.

Hannalia (Agudat Yisrael) hopes against hope that the Coalition parties will rise above their selfish interests to grant the orthodox their just demands against violations of the Sabbath in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and attacks Hapoel Hamizrachi for not seconding the Agudat's demand that a special session of the Knesset be called.

Ormer (Histadrut) greets Rishon Lezion on its 75th birthday, to which Davar devotes a page. Herut splashes on its front page its report of the rally for a Franco-Israeli alliance sponsored by its party in Tel Aviv.

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